wherein even when at least one of signals transmitted from said n-1 radio base stations is interrupted, data of the interrupted signal is compensated.

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1-13 are pending and claim 12 has been amend to overcome the Examiner's objection and not to distinguish over the prior art. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

Claim Objection

Claim 12 was objected to due to an informality. Applicant has taken care to amend claim 12 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this objection be withdrawn.

35 USC §103(a) claims 1-2 and 6-7 and 13

Claims 1-2, 6-7 and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Kato et al. (U.S Patent No. 5,583,851). This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks.

Claim 1 recites time-divisionally distributing the first signal of said first transmission rate into n-1 second signals, converting said second signals into third signals of a second transmission rate less than said first transmission rate and transmitting said third signals through radio transmission paths between n-1 radio base stations and a terminal station. Thus, claim 1 is a

method for bit rate conversion through a radio transmission path from radio base stations and a

terminal station. According to this method, a fast transmission rate signal is converted to a lower

transmission rate signal and the lower transmission rate signal is transmitted through radio

transmission paths from a plurality of radio base stations to the terminal station. Therefore, under

the same transmit power from the radio base stations, a ratio of a modulated signal to noise (C/N)

of the lower transmission rate signal may be larger than that of the fast transmission rate signal.

In other words, in order to obtain a desired C/N using the lower transmission rate signal, the

transmission power of the radio base station bay be reduced and the antenna gain of the radio base

station and the terminal station may also be reduced (specification, page 4, line 34 through page

5, line 14). This allows a relatively simple antenna to be used and, further, the power

consumption of the radio LAN system may be reduced (specification, page 5, lines 14-16).

The Examiner asserts that the admitted prior art shown in FIG. 1 (as discussed on pages

1 and 2 of the specification) discloses time-divisionally distributing a first signal at a first

transmission rate into n-1 second signals (n=3,4,...). The Examiner also asserts that the admitted

prior art discloses transmitting said n-1 third signals of said second transmission rate through radio

transmission paths between n-1 radio base stations and a terminal connected to at least one

terminal unit. Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion.

As shown in FIG. 1, the signal that is output by the ATM HUB is supplied to the 1-n radio

base stations without any conversion of the bit rate of the signal. In contrast, as can be seen from

FIG. 2, which is a diagram of an embodiment of the present invention, element 20 corresponds

to a data conversion part, or bit rate conversion part, which generates the third signals of the

second transmission rate which is less than the first transmission rate from the first signal of the first transmission rate from the ATM HUB. This feature is clearly recited in claim 1 as steps (a) and (b). As shown in FIG. 1, the prior art disclosed in the present specification does not perform these steps. Thus, the prior art disclosed in the present specification does not disclose or suggested the features of claim 1.

The Examiner relies on Kato et al. as teaching that n-1 second signals are converted into n-1 third signals of a second transmission rate less than the first transmission rate. The Examiner relies on col. 1, lines 40-49 and fig. 1 and equates multiplying spread codes by pseudo noise series at the transmitter side with step (b) recited in claim 1. Again, Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion as follows.

Kato et al. disclose a mobile communication unit for transmitting information by allocating a plurality of channel numbers to one user. The passages referred to by the Examiner specifically disclose that the spread codes are obtained by multiplying the orthogonal spread code $W1(t) - Wm(t)$ by PN series $PN(t)$, or the pseudo-noise series.

However, as recited in step (b) of claim 1, n-1 second signals of the first bit (transmission) rate obtained by the time-division distributing step (a) of claim 1 are converted into n-1 third signals of the second bit (transmission) rate less than the first bit (transmission) rate. This is not what is disclosed in Kato et al. Further, there is no disclosure or suggestion in Kato et al. that the spread codes ($S1(t)$, $S2(t)$ .... $Sm(t)$ correspond to a second transmission rate less than the first transmission rate. Accordingly, the features of claim 1 are not be disclosed or suggested by either the prior art disclosed in Applicant's specification, Kato et al. or a combination of the two.

Claims 6 and 13 also disclose the above discussed features. Therefore, the features of claims 6 and 13 are not disclosed or suggested by Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Kato et al. Claims 2 and 7 are allowable at least due to their dependency on claims 1 and 6 and further in view of the fact that none of the prior art of record disclose or suggest that the second transmission rate is $1/(n-1)$ of the first transmission rate. In fact, there is no relationship between the respective transmission rates disclosed or suggested in any of the prior art references. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 USC §103(a) claims 3, 5 and 9

Claims 3, 5 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over the admitted prior art in view of Kato et al. and further in view of Takatori et al. These claims are allowable at least due to their respective dependencies from claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

35 USC §103(a) claim 10

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the admitted prior art in view of Kato et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks.

Again, the Examiner relies on Kato et al. as disclosing rate conversion for converting third signals of a second transmission rate into signals of a first transmission rate, the second transmission rate less than the first transmission rate. However, as discussed above in conjunction with the Examiner's rejection of claim 1, Kato et al. fail to disclose or suggest this feature.

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Accordingly, claim 10 is allowable for the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Accordingly,

it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.
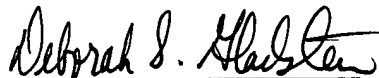
Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-referenced application is

in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

If any further fees are required in connection with the filing of this Amendment, please

charge same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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